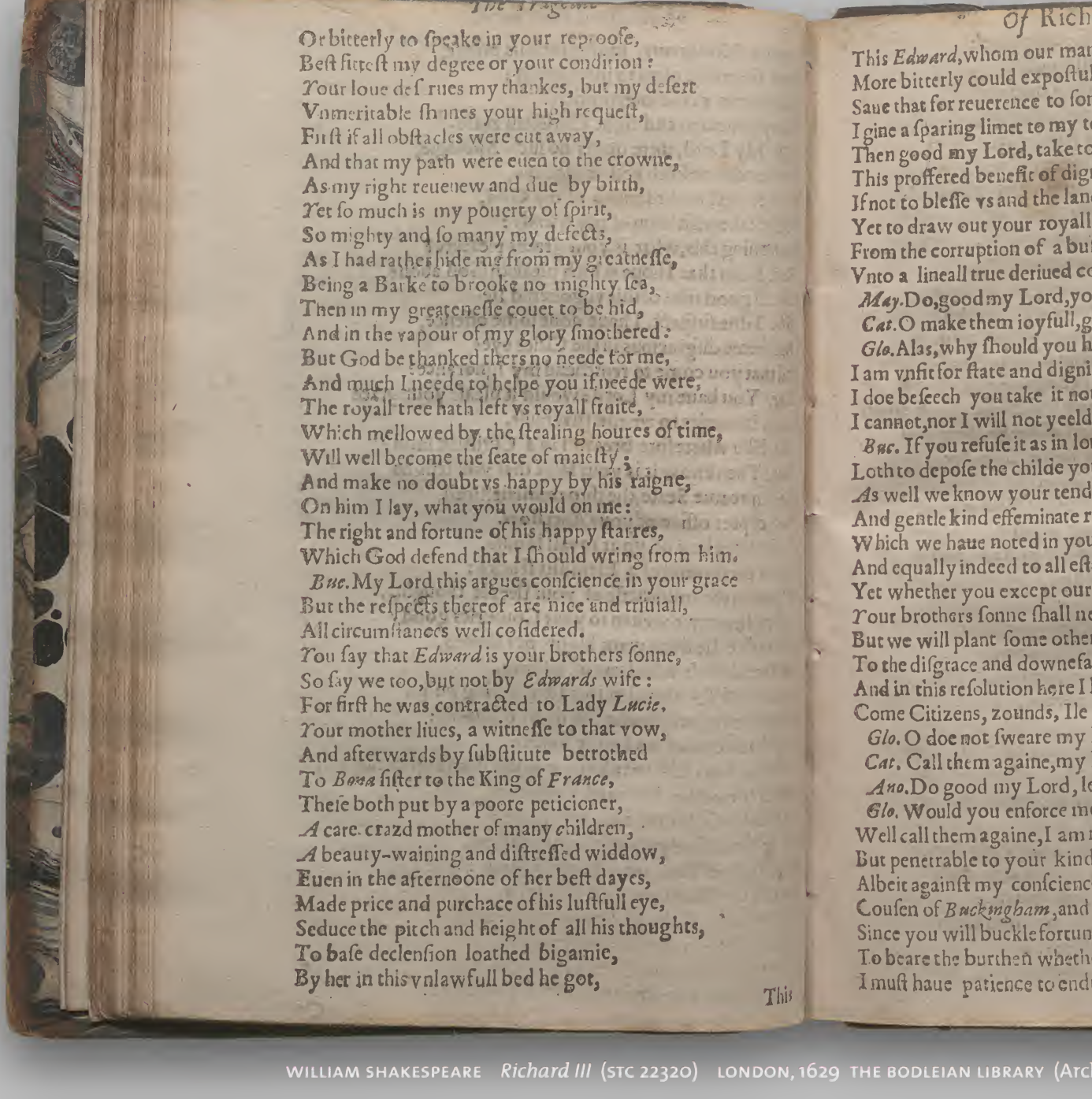

Or bitterly to ſpeake in your reproofe,
Beſt fitteſt my degree or your condition:
Your loue deſ rues my thankes, but my deſert
Vnmeritable ſhunes your high requeſt,
Firſt if all obſtacles were cut away,
And that my path were euen to the crowne,
As my right reuenew and due by birth,
Yet ſo much is my pouerty of ſpirit,
So mighty and ſo many my defects,
As I had rather hide me from my greatneſſe,
Being a Barke to brooke no mighty ſea,
Then in my greateneſſe couet to be hid,
And in the vapour of my glory ſmothered:
But God be thanked there's no neede for me,
And much I neede to helpe you if neede were,
The royall tree hath left vs royall fruite,
Which mellowed by the ſtealing houres of time,
Will well become the ſeate of maieſty;
And make no doubt vs happy by his raigne,
On him I lay, what you would on me:
The right and fortune of his happy ſtarres,
Which God defend that I ſhould wring from him.
Buc. My Lord this argues conſcience in your grace
But the reſpects thereof are nice and triuiall,
All circumſtances well conſidered.
You ſay that *Edward* is your brothers ſonne,
So ſay we too, but not by *Edwards* wife:
For firſt he was contracted to Lady *Lucie*,
Your mother liues, a witneſſe to that vow,
And afterwards by ſubſtitute betrothed
To *Bona* ſiſter to the King of *France*,
Theſe both put by a poore peticioner,
A care-crazd mother of many children,
A beauty-waining and diſtreſſed widdow,
Euen in the afternoone of her beſt dayes,
Made price and purchace of his luſtfull eye,
Seduce the pitch and height of all his thoughts,
To baſe declenſion loathed bigamie,
By her in this vnlawfull bed he got,

This

This *Edward*, whom our mat
More bitterly could expoſtul
Saue that for reuerence to ſo
I gine a ſparing limet to my t
Then good my Lord, take to
This proffered benefit of dig
If not to bleſſe vs and the lan
Yet to draw out your royall
From the corruption of a bu
Vnto a lineall true deriued co
May. Do, good my Lord, yo
Cat. O make them ioyfull, g
Glo. Alas, why ſhould you h
I am vnfit for ſtate and digni
I doe beſeech you take it no
I cannot, nor I will not yeeld
Buc. If you refuſe it as in lo
Loth to depoſe the childe yo
As well we know your tend
And gentle kind effeminate r
Which we haue noted in you
And equally indeed to all eſt
Yet whether you except our
Your brothers ſonne ſhall ne
But we will plant ſome othe
To the diſgrace and downefa
And in this reſolution here I
Come Citizens, zounds, Ile
Glo. O doe not ſweare my
Cat. Call them againe, my
Ano. Do good my Lord, le
Glo. Would you enforce m
Well call them againe, I am
But penetrable to your kind
Albeit againſt my conſcienc
Couſen of *Buckingham*, and
Since you will buckle fortun
To beare the burthen wheth
I muſt haue patience to end

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Richard III* (STC 22320) LONDON, 1629 THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY (Arc